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COUNTRY GERMANY	REPORT NO. 52A-5292	(LEAVE BLANK) EP/37241
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>		
SUBJECT Sociological and Political Conditions in the USSR		(INTERVIEWER) HELM, Erich (FN)
		(EDITOR) KREJCI
AREA REPORTED ON DZHEZKAZGAN, USSR	FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW USAF	
DATE OF REPORT 4 Mar 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Aug 47 - Jun 53	EVALUATION F-6
PREPARED BY (Officer) SHIRLEY A. KOLPIN, Lt Col, USAF	SOURCE 216867	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) ( ) Rpt 52A-5335		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)		
<p><b>A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:</b></p> <p>1. SOURCE was born on 8 Sep 1919 in PLESS (4958N-1857E). He attended elementary school for eight years and studied agriculture for four years. He was a graduate of agriculture school. He spoke Russian fluently.</p> <p>2. On 8 May 45 SOURCE was sentenced on charge of "war crimes" to 20 years of forced labor. The charge was violation of Paragraph 58/6 Russian Criminal Code. From Jun 45 till Jan 46 he was confined in a transit prison at BREST LITOVSK (5205N-2342E). From Jan 46 till Aug 47 he was in the Labor Camp #260/1 at ORSK (5112N-5835E). From Aug 47 till Jun 53 he was confined in forced labor camps #293/2 and #293/1 at DZHEZKAZGAN (approximate coordinates 4744N-6745N). During this period of time he worked as a constr worker on new industrial and housing projects. He had close contact with Soviet prisoners and forced laborers.</p> <p>3. SOURCE was willing to cooperate from the beginning of the interview. He was a serious, deliberate and diligent man. His statements seemed to be objective.</p> <p><b>B. SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD GENERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS:</b></p> <p>4. A group which was particularly opposed to the Soviet regime were the Ukrainian population. They were nationalists and aimed to establish an independent nation. On the other hand they disapproved of the kolkhoz farming system.</p> <p>5. SOURCE noticed that a remarkable percentage of military officers, mainly majors to colonels were among the prisoners. This group chiefly composed of Jews who had served with the occupation forces in SZG. A smaller portion of this group were Chechens and individuals from the Caucasus Mountains area.</p> <p>6. Major sources of discontent prior to the death of STALIN among the Ukrainian population were: restrictions on employment mobility, inadequate housing, collectivization, and low prices of products delivered on the compulsory delivery quota schedule. They were challenged by the fact that 100 kg of wheat equalled 3 kg of white bread which both were 6 rubles, which meant an excessive profit for the state.</p> <p><b>C. EVENTS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF STALIN:</b></p> <p>7. Insofar as inmates of the forced labor camps were concerned SOURCE found that there were two major groups. One of these was opposed to STALIN and devoted allegiance to LENIN. Many convicts were sentenced for being adherents to LENIN doctrines. Among these were former party functionaries as well as intelligentsia. One of these convicts was former Colonel BUKHAYEV who previously was a "Rayon" Secretary of the region of MOSKVA (5545N-3735E). The second group also composed of party functionaries and intelligentsia who supported the STALIN Regime.</p> <p>No INCLS.</p>		
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No percentages for these groups were available.

9. SOURCE heard from prisoners who were moved to the DZHEZHAGAN Camp that a forced labor camp at SPASKA (coordinates unknown) near KARAGANDA (4950N-7310E) was dissolved after 27 Mar 53. 80% of the prisoners were released. However, the SPASKA Camp confined mostly invalids unfit for work. 70 prisoners were released from the DZHEZHAGAN Camp. Not all prisoners entitled to be released were set free, but mainly wives with children and those who had terms under five years. All released prisoners were convicted for violations of Paragraphs 58/10 and 58/9-18 Soviet Criminal Code. The latter paragraph referred to sabotage and the last number "18" meant that no evidence for the charge was given.

10. A reform of the criminal code according to the amnesty act of 27 Mar was announced to the prisoners but no steps were taken to carry out this measure until Jun 53.

13. SOURCE learned from prisoners released from a forced labor camp at VORKUTA (6731N-6359E) who were on transit in DZHEZHAGAN that rioters from the Jun revolt in the SZG were confined in this camp.

## D. PURGES, RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND MASS ARRESTS:

20. Strong resistance activity ruled among the inmates of the forced labor and penal camps. SOURCE believed that it was organized but this assumption could not be evidenced. However, he stated that prisoners of the DZHEZHAGAN Camp often went on hunger strikes or made attempts at passive resistance whenever they had reasons to complain of hard or unjust treatment. A fatal incident occurred on 15 May 53 when eight prisoners were killed and seven more injured by rifle and machine gun fire. Reason for this was that several prisoners accepted flowers given them by the free populace. Camp guards ordered the prisoners to throw away the flowers but they refused. All prisoners longed for liberation. Their hope was that Western Powers would drop weapons and leaflets as a sign that they were about to assist them in the action. Many prisoners talked seriously on this topic and were convinced that all forced laborers would revolt simultaneously in the country and free themselves by killing their oppressors. They expected and strongly hoped that assistance would come by air from the south because they strongly believed that Americans had air bases in Afghanistan. When SOURCE left for repatriation, Soviet prisoners informed him: "Tell the West that here remain many people waiting to be freed."

21. In Jun 53 individuals from the Baltic states and from the Moldavia area arrived, who allegedly were sentenced 25 year terms for sabotage acts. These people claimed that resistance organizations existed in the Baltic states and sabotage acts such as blowing up bridges occurred regularly.

22. Around 2,000 prisoners in the DZHEZHAGAN Camp were members of the VLASOV Army. Furthermore SOURCE heard that great groups of VOLGA Germans were settled at KARAGANDA and at ALMA ATA (4315N-7657E).

## E. FORCED LABOR CAMPS:

23. The forced labor camp SOURCE was confined in from Aug 47 till Jun 53 was located at DZHEZHAGAN and named "Step Regime Lager". Its number was 293/1 and 293/2. Total number of inmates ranged from 5,000 to 6,000. 800 to 1,000 were females. 20% were Ukrainians, 20% White Russians, the rest composed of remaining parts of the Soviet Union and its satellites such as Czechs, Poles, Hungarians, also some Japanese and Koreans. One other remarkable portion originated from the Caucasian region. All prisoners were sentenced on political charges. The prisoners worked in stone quarries and on new constrs. The German group, all former PWs, originally comprised 44 men. Eight of them were released in Jun 53, the rest were left behind. One of these was given a 25 year term for so-called crime against humanity because he fought partisans.

24. SOURCE knew of one co-prisoner who claimed to be an American citizen, named SCHIFFER. He was a former employee of the American Embassy in MOSKVA. He was slim, 1.8 m tall, in his 40s, and of Jewish origin. He was arrested in 1940

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and convicted on charge of espionage according to Paragraph 58/6 Soviet Criminal Code.

25. Hardened criminals (BLATNOIS) were removed from the camp in 1949. Changes in the treatment of forced laborers occurred in 1952 when inmates were given regular pay for working and the camp administration was based on its own economy. A new main administration was established in 1951 in DZERZKAZGAN. This institution administered all camps in the district of this place. Head of the main administration was MVD Lieutenant Colonel CHERSHILL, a man in his 50s, 1.72 m tall, slim, black graying hair.

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